

# South Dakota National Guard

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March 25, 2015

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **SDNG adjutant general: increasing diversity remains a top priority**

By Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch  
SDNG adjutant general

As the state and nation concludes celebrating Women's History Month, we can all be proud of the contributions that women in uniform have made and are making to our great military, and in particular those in our South Dakota National Guard.

As the adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard, I'm proud of the progress we continue to make in increasing the number of women and opportunities available to them within our ranks.

Since 2007, the South Dakota Army National Guard has been able to open more than 800 positions, previously unavailable to women, increased the number of women in our ranks by nearly 15 percent and we look forward to opening our remaining military occupational specialties as soon as we are able.

Pentagon officials say all four of the services are on track to open all military jobs to women by next year, and expect rules for those changes to be in place by this fall.

In March 17 testimony before the House Armed Services Committee, defense officials said each of the services are reviewing the final male-only occupations within their ranks, to see what accommodations, if any, will need to be made in coming months.

Under current law, Pentagon officials have until the end of September to develop gender-neutral standards for all military occupations and until the end of December to finalize plans to allow women to compete for those jobs. I strongly believe that this is a step in the right direction.

I made increasing the number of women and minorities, and allowing all races, ethnic groups and genders the highest leadership opportunities a top priority four years ago when I was appointed adjutant general.

A year ago, I was appointed as the National Guard's Joint Diversity Executive Committee Chair, which has given me the opportunity to lead the development of General Frank Grass' Campaign Plan to "operationalize" diversity and inclusion throughout the National Guard.

Right here in South Dakota, we've formed State Diversity Council's within both the Army and Air Guard, along with a State Joint Diversity Executive Council to develop, implement and maintain strategic diversity processes for our organization's success.

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From our diversity councils to our leaders' commitment to enhance diversity, I'm proud of the progress we continue to make every day in the South Dakota National Guard.

We're all proud of the history, accomplishments and contributions that women throughout the history of our organization have made, and will continue to make.

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Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, South Dakota National Guard adjutant general.  
(Courtesy photo/Released)

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